



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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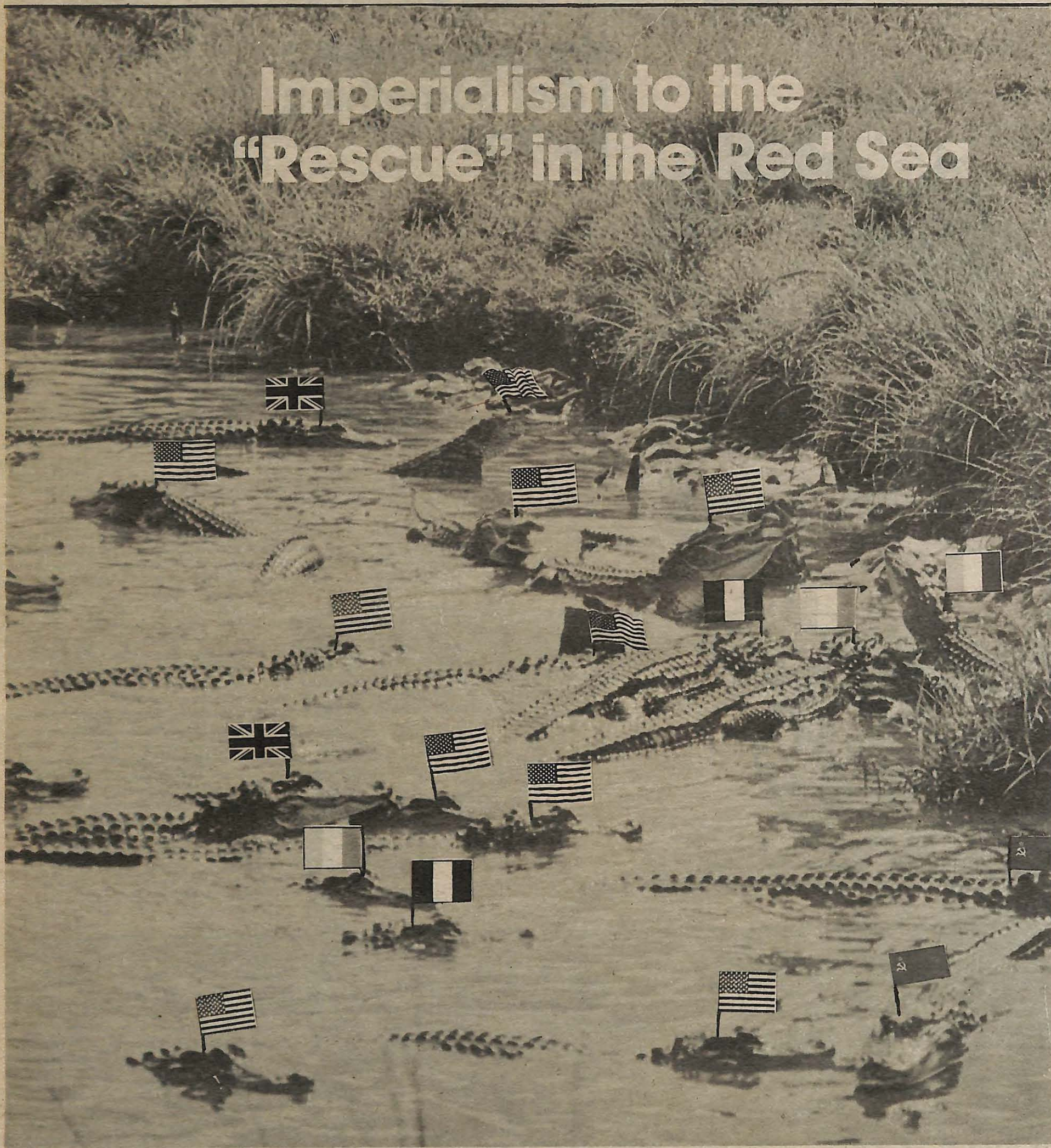
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Imperialism to the "Rescue" in the Red Sea



Presently, battleships and minesweepers from the major imperialist powers are en route to, or already in, the Red Sea. A Western "multinational minesweeping force," spearheaded by the United States, will shortly number some 17 vessels in Red Sea waters. Not to be outdone, a Soviet naval force of some five or six ships is likewise en route or already in the area. All this is for the purpose of finding mines, defusing a threat to international shipping, and restoring Red Sea operations to a state of normalcy. But the calculations, and compulsion, behind this mushrooming naval presence lie elsewhere. It could hardly be otherwise in a world — and specifically, a region — of heightened U.S.-Soviet rivalry, military

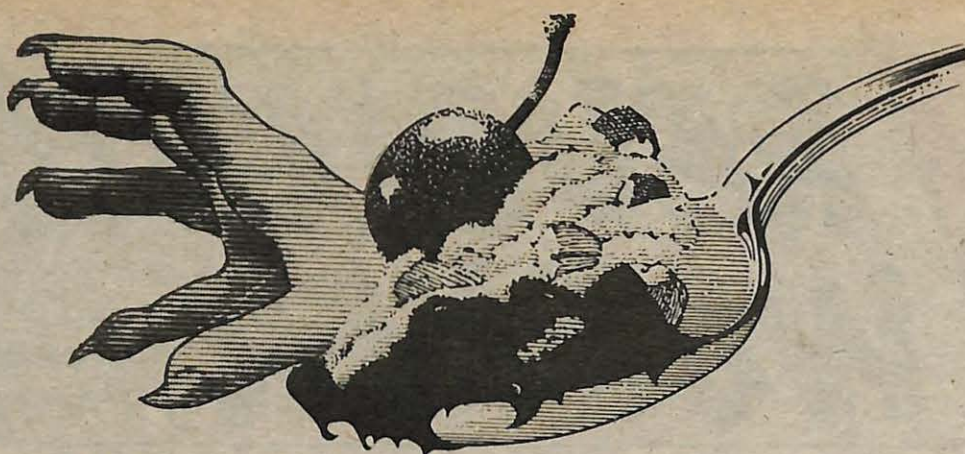
buildups, and preparations for impending showdown. In the words of an unnamed Western diplomat stationed in Cairo, "What we have here is a substantial buildup of both Russian and Western naval forces in Red Sea waters as part of an international effort to secure a vital international waterway." "Securing" this waterway refers only incidentally to the as yet nebulous, and very likely fabricated, "terrorist threat" to international shipping. In fact, the current dive into the minesweeping fray is an "international effort" by contending imperialist powers which serves their all-around military preparations.

The U.S. and Soviets are hardly strangers to the area, of course. Egypt

and Saudi Arabia are, after Israel, the foremost recipients by far — in the region and the world — of U.S. military aid and exports. By virtue of this relationship the U.S. has built up a network of air and naval bases in the area, a network which tacitly provides important "pre-positioning" and back-up potential for the U.S. rapid deployment forces earmarked for intervention in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf. The Soviets, enjoying similar relations with Ethiopia and South Yemen, likewise cast their military shadow across the area — the Soviet navy making active use of installations in the Dahlac Islands (off the Ethiopian coast) and at the South Yemen naval port of Aden.

Nor is the import of this military posture limited to the Red Sea and its littoral states. This is an area, after all, situated within the broader "Arc of Crisis" — ranging from Afghanistan through the Persian Gulf to the Horn of Africa — which has emerged, since the late '70s, as a decisive fulcrum of U.S.-Soviet global contention. It is an area marked by sharp instability, regional conflicts and local insurgencies set in the context of U.S.-Soviet maneuver. More, the "Arc of Crisis" is marked by the overarching compulsion of the U.S. and Soviets to bolster their own military projection capabilities (conventional and

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Hey Kid, C'Mere... I Got Something For You



Seven years ago, Eric Hentzel (then 7 years old) and his brother Greg, age 11, figured out a clever little scam for getting free ice cream. At their local Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor in Palo Alto, California, they filled out extra "birthday club" forms. "We made up really phony names and put different birthdays on, but our own address," said Eric, now 14. Each year, they would get notices for free sundaes, not only under their real names but also for a second treat under their aliases. This year, as the alias "Johnny Klomberg" approached his 18th birthday, something else arrived — a reminder from the Selective Service that "Johnny" shouldn't forget to register for the draft. And so this year, "Johnny" (a.k.a. Eric) didn't show up to claim his free ice cream. "We thought they'd recognize us."

The story which unraveled from this little incident is that the Selective Service has been buying up lists of children and their birthdays to feed into its computers. This month, the agency acknowledged that it had paid \$5,687 last year for a list of 167,000 names of other birthday-club boys who would be 18 this year, so that it could zero in on them to enforce registration.

The Pentagon simultaneously revealed that it spends about \$250,000 a year on commercial lists compiled by four other companies: American Student List Co. of Long Island, Market Development

Corp. of Kansas City, the Market Compilation and Research Bureau of Los Angeles and Metro Mail of New York City. All in all, the Defense Department turns in a mailing list of 1.6 million names to the SSS, drawn from a variety of sources, including (in addition to the mailing-list brokers) high schools and various recruiting stations around the country.

Confronted by Farrell's Ice Cream's protestation of innocence, the broker who had bought their list and passed it on to the SSS conceded that they had not informed Farrell's of the purchase. But even this meager appearance of concern did not extend to the "information industry" itself: Jim Parish, director of marketing service for MCRB insisted "I don't feel strongly it's immoral." He added that such lists can be (and apparently are) compiled from just about anything — from sports camps' registration, to records of children who send in bubble gum wrappers to get free baseball hats.

The American Civil Liberties Union, true to liberal tradition, questioned the practice for all the wrong reasons, saying this was "unnecessary mischief" and that "private lists are notoriously inaccurate." Meanwhile the Selective Service itself, through its director of public affairs Will Ebel, was coldly unrepentant: "We do everything we can to get every 18-year-old to register. Our concern is equity. If your son registers, the guy who lives across the street who is 18 should have to register too."

So have no fear, if the tyke across your street has joined a sundae club, gone to camp, collected bubble-gum cards or signed some mailing list during his tender years...he is not only living the all-American childhood, but also weaving himself into U.S. imperialism's web for catching World War 3 cannonfodder. "Equity" will prevail, and he will be fingered. Reassuring, isn't it? □

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Ronald Reagan, Nicholas II and the Spectre of Revolution

The following article, from the series "More Reflections and Sketches," is reprinted from RW No. 205, May 13, 1983.

By Bob Avakian

"This is not Russia in the time of Lenin." Next to "this is not the '60s," that is one of the favorite statements of those who have (or at least feel strongly that they have) a stake in *not* seeing revolution in the U.S. and who want to discourage not only the development of a revolutionary movement in general but of a Marxist-Leninist force capable of acting as its vanguard in particular.

Of course, on the most obvious level, this is not Russia in the time of Lenin. But that is after all so obvious that I would be tempted to ask, "You say that to say what?" — except that I already know the answer to that, too, as mentioned just above.

All this is background for the fact that not too long ago a story was reported to me about how someone interviewed on a TV program about unemployment in the U.S. — a white-collar worker I think — after reciting how traumatic the experience of facing long-term unemployment was, made the remark that something had better be done soon to deal with this situation or Reagan might end up as the Nicholas II of America. Nicholas II was the tsar in Russia who was overthrown by the February, 1917 revolution, which preceded by 8 months the proletarian revolution led by Lenin.

While it is true not only that the U.S. today is not Russia of that time but more generally that there is a limitation to analogies (and a danger in applying them too broadly), it struck me that there are several points of interest about this image of Reagan as the Nicholas II of the U.S. First, under Nicholas II there was a period of dark reaction in response to a revolutionary upsurge that was crushed. These years of his reign (after 1905), which proved to be his last, were especially shrouded in obscurantism. To what degree this was consciously promoted and to what degree it was a product of the rot eating away around the seats of power of the old order is perhaps difficult to determine; but in any case there is a certain (and again limited) analogy with Reagan's association with and deliberate promotion of obscurantism and in particular "old-time religion" in the midst of the darkening clouds of crisis and social decay. (Take for example his idiotic comment in his recent State of the Union address that he would champion "a constitutional amendment to permit voluntary school prayer; God should never have been expelled from America's classrooms" — does he think these up on his own or does he have to pay other people to do it?!) It is important to understand that Reagan's words and actions in this sphere represent a deliberate device to send out a message to the solid social base of the bourgeoisie and reaction that they need no longer be on the defensive — that know-nothingism and its disciples and followers have a place in the great imperialist scheme of things, especially now — and on the other hand to intimidate and politically paralyze — and drive into the arms of enlightened liberal imperialist leaders — those who are potential protestors or rebels.

Next, it was under Nicholas II that Russia went into world war — at first with a wave of chauvinism (patriotic fervor) sweeping across the land but before long with the agony and degradation of seemingly endless carnage making itself felt. Perhaps it will be Reagan's distinction to lead America once more into war — with god on its side. Perhaps and only perhaps, because other things might intervene to prevent that — Reagan might be replaced as chief executive and commander-in-chief before then . . . or revolution might prevent world war.

That brings us to the point that was at the heart of the comment by the unemployed worker comparing Reagan to Nicholas II. It might possibly fall to Reagan to preside over not only the deepening of the crisis but the cracking and splitting apart of the old order into a revolutionary situation and perhaps a successful revolution. While there are actually many important differences between Russia at the time of Nicholas II and the U.S. today, the fact that the spectre of Reagan becoming the Nicholas II of America — the spectre of revolution right in the U.S. — could be raised in such an interview and apparently not immediately dismissed as ridiculous is very significant. It should be a source of encouragement to all those who would like to see such a development, and something to think about for those who glibly keep repeating that "This is not Russia in the time of Lenin."

A final thought on this for now. The fall of Nicholas II was not yet the proletarian revolution; it did not yet mean the overthrow of imperialism and the bourgeoisie in Russia. In fact tsarism was immediately replaced by the government of democrats, progressives, even bourgeois socialists serving imperialism. While, again, the situation in the U.S. today is different — and specifically there is not a preliminary task of overthrowing a monarchy and the social forces represented by it before carrying out the proletarian-socialist revolution as there was in Russia — there is a basic lesson to be learned here. Revolutions, as Lenin insisted, are not simple, straight-line-forward affairs in which two armies line up facing each other, one clearly for imperialism, the other for socialism; revolutions involve many different class forces, each with their own interests, outlook and concrete demands, and the enemy does not present simply one face or stick to only one tactic. Revolutions require, especially of the advanced class, that it be able to recognize and deal with the decisive turning points and with the class interests and forces involved in all major events and actions leading up to and even more so during a revolutionary crisis and upheaval. It is for this that the class-conscious proletariat and its vanguard must now be making active and serious preparation.



Government Strikes at Plowshares Actions

The sentences meted out to Plowshare activists this summer in two very different trials revealed with vicious clarity the government's attempts to try to squash antiwar protests that go beyond acceptable limits. In Syracuse, New York, it was the Griffiss Plowshares, seven people who last Thanksgiving Day got inside the Griffiss Air Force Base near Rome, New York, and poured blood and hammered on a B-52 bomber equipped with cruise missiles. Their trial took weeks with the court allowing testimony by expert defense witnesses about the horrors and imminence of nuclear war and the ineffectiveness of voting and other "normal" efforts to reverse the drive toward war. The prosecution, of course, argued that U.S. national security was at stake. The judge played out his role perfectly in this political trial. He told the jury to ignore the testimony in support of the defendants' claim that their actions were "justified" — a legal defense that an illegal act is justified if intended to prevent

a greater harm. On July 16, before 300 Plowshares supporters who overflowed the courthouse, the judge said that an example must be made and promptly sentenced four of the defendants to three years in prison and the other three to two years.

The Pershing Plowshares trial, run concurrently in Orlando, Florida, was over in a few days. The jury took less than three hours to convict and the sentence was three years for all eight activists, plus five years probation. This was accompanied by the threat that if the defendants didn't pay restitution amounting to thousands of dollars each, they might face doing the extra 5 years in jail. Their crime was going into a Marietta Corporation arms plant on Easter morning and carrying out a blood-and-hammer Plowshares disarmament action amidst preparation of the Pershing missiles for shipment to European deployment.

All 15 people from these two actions are now in prison, with the cumulative

total of at least 45 years in jail, leaving out the Florida court's threat to extend the sentence. Amidst the fog of lies about the "Freeze," voting, and other "channels open to citizens to bring about change in the nuclear arms policy," these trials have again underscored what an earlier Plowshares defendant told the court in the trial of the Trident Nein: "The court would sit in the midst of the rubble of a nuclear war and declare it legal."

But the imprisoned Plowshares people, including a citizen of Sweden, remain unrepentant and call for more resistance. On August 10 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, yet another Plowshares action took place. Two people entered the Sperry-Univac plant that produces computer software for the Trident II missile and poured blood and hammered on the equipment. The trial for this action will take place in the fall, appropriately nearby the home of Walter F. Mondale. □

The Danger At El Centro

We received this report from a correspondent in southern California.

On Saturday, August 18, I attended a demonstration called by the Women's Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) detention camp in El Centro, California. El Centro is 120 miles inland from San Diego. The isolated location serves the INS's purposes well, because the prisoners at El Centro are largely Central American immigrants who have refused to sign the "voluntary" deportation forms. Over 400 prisoners are held here, many imprisoned there over a year in notorious conditions. Prisoners spend most of the day in the blistering desert sun, reports of beatings and abuse by guards are common, the food and medical care are atrocious, and the prisoners are kept isolated — because of the remote location — from legal assistance, from the immigrant population of southern California cities and from virtually anyone who could aid them.

It was predictable, then, that this rally and vigil of some 75 people, which was largely religious in character and was demanding that the immigrants be granted asylum and released, was considered a threat by the authorities. So much of a threat, as a matter of fact, that the INS took the extraordinary steps of locking up all the prisoners in the barracks during the vigil. In fact they even went to the length of covering up all the windows in some of the barracks so that the prisoners could not see out. The prison camp is surrounded by two chain-link fences topped with barbed wire, so if the prisoners had been let out into the yard they could have seen and heard all of what went on. Still, despite the lock-down, it was obvious that many of the prisoners could get at least some idea of what was going on. The faces of prisoners pressing against the glass and the waving of arms inside the barracks were seen at those windows which the guards had neglected to cover over.

Following the demonstration many demonstrators stopped across the street

before beginning the trip back to L.A., when someone came in with the news that some of the prisoners had been let out into the yard. Many immediately decided to go back and resume the demonstration. A group of maybe ten people gathered on the bank of an irrigation ditch which overlooks the prison camp, but the prisoners called people to come closer to the fence. In between the two fences that surround the camp were two Border Patrol guards who quickly began yelling at the demonstrators to get away from the fence. From the frenzied behavior of guards it was obvious that they had been caught by surprise by the return of the demonstrators, and that they were now witnessing what they worked very hard to avoid.

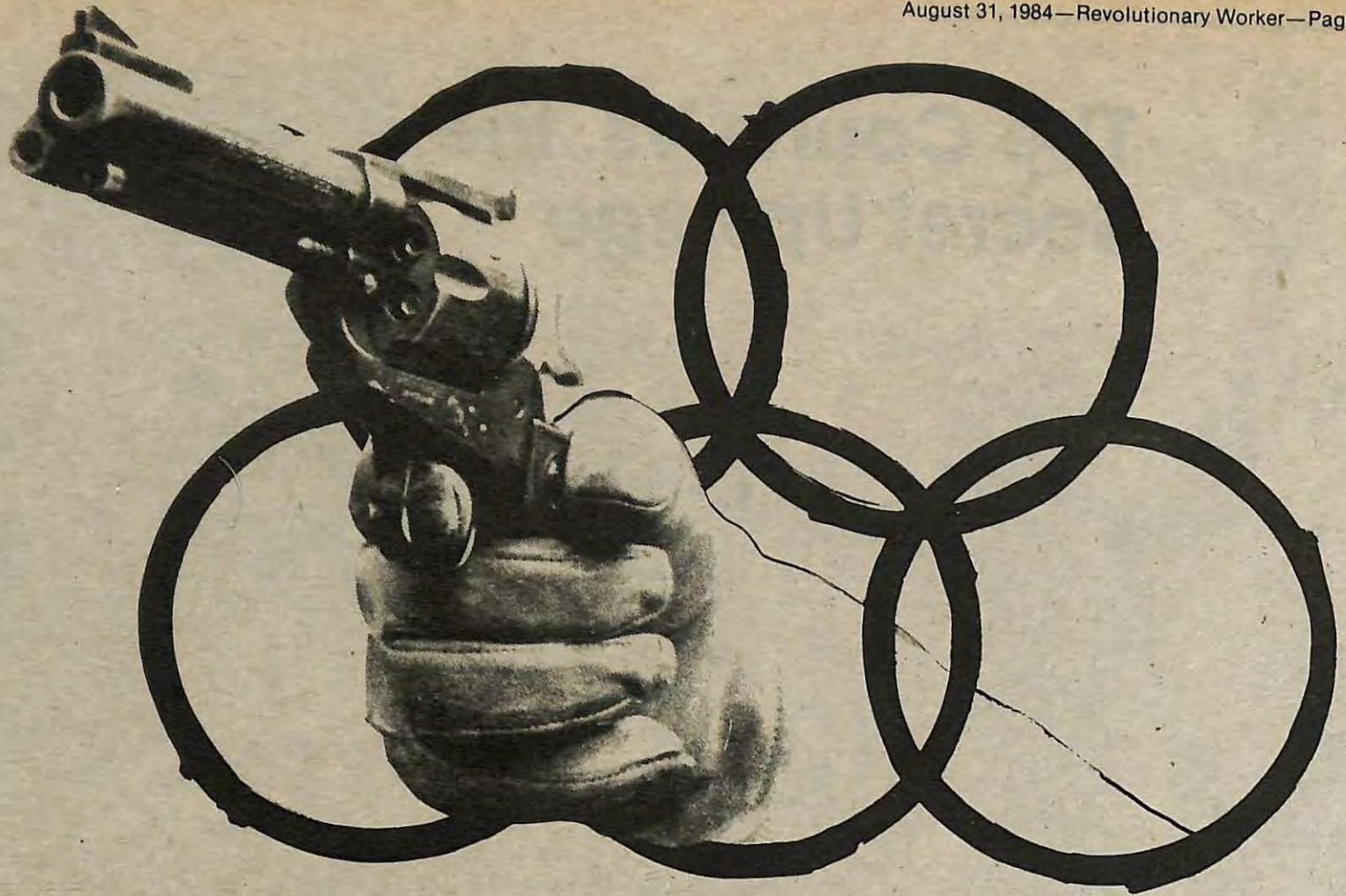
Meanwhile a crowd of prisoners gathered opposite the demonstrators. Shouts of "¡Asilo!" (asylum) and "¡Libertad!" rang out, while prisoners told of conditions inside the detention camp, of cockroaches in the food and beatings by the guards. Those inside and outside the fence joined in chants of

"Venceremos!" Within minutes Border Patrol agents and El Centro cops began arriving on the scene, telling the demonstrators to get back from the fence and claiming that it was illegal to talk to the prisoners. There were at least six Border Patrol agents and five El Centro cops on the scene who were clearly desperate to put an end to this situation as soon as possible. The means they chose to do this was to have one of the El Centro cops get on his loudspeaker and declare the entire scene an unlawful assembly! "Due to the situation we are now in," he actually stated.

Amidst shouts from both the demonstrators and the prisoners, the demonstrators slowly dispersed, but not before the authorities had given a very vivid demonstration of how much they rely on the isolation of their victims to carry out their dirty work, and how vulnerable they feel once these barriers they have erected are in the least bit breached. □



Salvadoran refugees at the detention center in El Centro, California.



The Unofficial Death Squad of the Olympics

On July 18, at 4:00 p.m., James Oliver Huberty, a racist, right-wing fanatic, entered a McDonald's in San Ysidro, California and began systematically massacring the people inside. Twenty-one people were killed, five of them children under eleven, 15 people were wounded; almost all of the victims were Mexican citizens or Mexican-Americans. And as the Olympic Torch was winding its way through Southern California, accompanied by the obscene chorus of "USA! USA!" from crowds of loyal flagwavers, and as America was being readied for its prewar Olympic extravaganza, James Huberty staged his murderous one-man pogrom less than two miles from the Mexican border.

It was a massacre in the finest of American traditions. Huberty, armed with an Uzi semi-automatic rifle, a shotgun and a 9mm. pistol, entered the San Ysidro McDonald's saying, "I killed thousands in Vietnam, and I want to kill more," and opened fire on everyone in sight. Those who lay wounded on the floor, Huberty shot again to make sure they died. For an hour and fifteen minutes Huberty went about his deadly work.

And even when the killing was finally over the atrocities had really only begun. A host of reactionaries of every stripe and hue — police officials, McDonald's heir Joan Kroc, Huberty's wife, organized fascists, and, of course, that venerable American institution, the free press — descended like carrion-fowl on the San Ysidro massacre.

A kind of "cover story" has been constructed in the wake of the killings. According to this, James Huberty was a run-of-the-mill worker from Ohio, demoralized on account of a layoff, who went off the deep end at a fast-food joint and killed everything in sight; police handled the problem as efficiently as possible and later had to undergo psychoanalysis for the traumas they suffered, while the McDonald's Co. planned to bulldoze the restaurant, pay the victims restitution, and try generally, like everyone else, to erase the memory of the "human tragedy."

In our investigation the *RW* found this story, which began to take shape a few days after initial reports, to be remarkably consistent in the media. It is also consistent in another aspect: point for point, it is entirely untrue. Further, in dismantling the media's tale, an alternate and brutal scenario suggests itself.

Even a cursory study of the mountain of information churned out by the bourgeois media makes it clear that

Huberty was no union-card basket case, but a conscious racist and reactionary. And while the media carefully avoids the question of whether Huberty belonged to a fascist organization, what is known about him makes that at least a very strong possibility.

Huberty was raised, and spent most of his life, in rural Ohio, his upbringing described as "religious and respectable" and his family as "bible toters" by acquaintances. Huberty volunteered for the military during Vietnam. And, though he was rejected for medical reasons, that did little to dampen his enthusiasm to kill for U.S. imperialism. According to an Ohio acquaintance, Huberty "liked to dress" like a soldier — just like he did before he went into the San Ysidro McDonald's. A deputy sheriff who knew Huberty in Ohio says that Huberty "was always talking about shooting somebody." He was, according to the deputy, "an individual with survivalist techniques and weaponry" who was "concerned with the communist threat."

Huberty's wife, in an interview with the *San Diego Union*, described her husband's politics: "If anything he was a Nazi... he thought he was German but he wasn't. He acted like he was German." His neighbors are as direct, reporting almost universally to this newspaper that Huberty "hated Mexicans." Huberty's racist reputation was so widespread that the fact found its way into initial reports of the bourgeois media; the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and television coverage, for instance, carried reports of this — though it soon disappeared.

Then there is the question of the curiously twisted path that took James Huberty to San Ysidro in the first place. It was only in 1983 that Huberty decided to move not to California, but to Tijuana. Why would a racist, reactionary American who didn't even speak Spanish move to Mexico? The *San Diego Union* quotes an acquaintance in Ohio as saying that Huberty said he was "going to make a lot of money," and, Huberty added, "we're going to show them who's boss." A not very innocent-sounding "money-making venture"!

In January the Hubertys moved from the Tijuana area to San Ysidro, into an apartment complex where they were reportedly the only white family. And, again, the question poses itself: why would the likes of James Huberty locate himself here, in a barrio right on the Mexican border with an overwhelmingly Latino population? A closer look at this area suggests an answer: indeed, there are many attractions for a racist, neo-Nazi

here. San Diego is surrounded by Marine Corps and Navy bases, and there is a history of right-wing activity in the area that is long and notorious and includes a recent influx of Ku Klux Klan.

During the '60s, for instance, the FBI and San Diego police sponsored a series of COINTELPRO-linked right-wing bombings and other terrorist attacks against left organizations; the area is well known as a breeding ground for groups like the John Birch Society and a variety of reactionary paramilitary organizations such as the Minutemen. For the past several years the border itself has been the hotbed of such activity. The Ku Klux Klan has staged demonstrations on the border, rallying, as they put it, white Americans who "want to see wetbacks put in their place." There have been repeated reports of groups of vigilantes patrolling the border, and the activities of these reactionaries has been given wide publicity in the media. The *RW* has learned of other white reactionaries living in San Ysidro who have large stocks of arms and who claim to belong to a group to "support law enforcement." Others have in recent months encountered vigilantes equipped with handcuffs, walkie-talkies and dogs waiting at night to ambush anyone who might try to cross the border — while, a short distance away, a Border Patrol agent looks on approvingly. There are those in San Ysidro who say that James Huberty was one of these vigilantes.

There is, in short, a distinct stench arising from the activities and identity of James Huberty. And a very similar and suspicious smell emanates from the actions of the police who responded to Huberty's massacre.

It took perhaps five minutes from the time Huberty arrived at the McDonald's until the first police units arrived on the scene. Nonetheless, Huberty continued to roam around McDonald's, firing at will, for the next hour and ten minutes. Not until 5:17, over an hour later, did the San Diego SWAT team open fire on Huberty, and he was then killed almost instantly. Why the long delay while the massacre continued?

The police have offered a variety of explanations. One police claim was that they were reluctant to open fire on Huberty for fear that he was holding hostages. Yet a cop who was one of the first on the scene told of seeing Huberty shooting people who were already laying wounded and on the ground. Even if Huberty had been holding hostages, it is hardly credible for the police to argue that they might save their lives by holding

fire. Another explanation was that heavy traffic delayed the arrival of the SWAT team; in fact a police sniper, armed with a .308 caliber rifle and a scope, was stationed on the roof of the post office next to the McDonald's only some 30 yards away and watched for twenty minutes as Huberty continued his rampage. It was this sniper that finally killed Huberty. This same fact makes it equally hard to swallow the explanation that the shattered glass in the windows made it hard to see and was responsible for the delay in shooting Huberty; the police sniper obviously had a clear shot. And with Huberty constantly moving around the restaurant, it seems highly unlikely that it was the first clear shot in over an hour.

At bottom, what is implied by all these various police explanations, of course, is that the order to shoot Huberty could not be carried out for one or another technical or logistical reason. In fact, the order to shoot was *not issued* by police commanders until minutes before the police marksman opened up, and immediately found his mark.

As the uproar over the delay continued, police fell back on still another rationale: that the delay really didn't matter, since Huberty "shot all the people the moment he went in — in the first five minutes," as police commander Larry Gore told the press. Within days this claim was flatly contradicted by at least three different witnesses. One survivor of the massacre told the press, "I got shot in the first fifteen minutes and again 45 minutes later." And this same witness told of having bullets pass nearby him for over an hour after the massacre began. In yet another press conference on August 2, police chief Kolender asserted, but could not prove, that "they did not see what they said (they did)."

The simple fact is that the authorities have never given a coherent explanation for why they waited well over an hour before shooting Huberty, something which gives the strong impression that the authorities have their own reasons for keeping Huberty alive as long as they did — reasons which they prefer not to discuss publicly. This is made all the more striking by the fact that there seems to have been no delay at all in putting other aspects of their repressive apparatus into motion. Within 30 minutes, for example, of when Huberty began his murderous mission, U.S. immigration officials had sealed off the border and all of Interstate 5, which passes directly behind the San Ysidro McDonald's, had been shut down. No technical or logistical problems

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The Courts Vs. the Secret Upsurge



The trials of those arrested during the Democratic Convention started Monday, August 20, the same day the Republican Convention convened. The secret upsurge of political struggle during the Convention, and the massive police clampdown, have left the courts in San Francisco a large and complex problem in the administration of justice, American-style. In the course of the Convention, over 450 people were arrested, over 80 on conspiracy charges, and hundreds of misdemeanors of various kinds were doled out.

The courts have been charged with the delicate responsibility of doing their share in stifling the political momentum of the protest, upholding the actions of the police, and ensuring that the protestors be punished for the sin of opposing the Democrats, and even worse, linking the Democrats with the war preparations at this point in history. At the same time, the punishment has to be doled out in such a way that minimizes any risk of further disruption and exposure — the protestors can't be dragged into a major political trial, which would focus attention on Convention protest once again, quite possibly open avenues for further rebel ventures, and spotlight the vicious police attacks on demonstrators during the Convention. After all, according to the official summation — which has to be bolstered all the more because it is so profoundly untrue — there were no significant rebel eruptions during the Convention, and the police were quite well behaved.

The court's approach to handling these various necessities has now become clear. On one side, hundreds of misdemeanors have been reduced to infractions like "blocking the sidewalk" in an attempt to get as many as possible to plead guilty, and to reduce pressure on the courts for a mass trial. On the other side, certain individuals have been singled out for serious misdemeanor charges, including a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB). Isolating those considered "leaders" for serious charges has gone along with the relatively light sentences meted out to the mass of protestors; those who have pleaded guilty to the infraction have been given credit for time served when they were arrested, then released with no more time or fine.

But even the "light" sentences give a clear indication of the very political character of the court's actions. The particular infraction most widely used is effectively a form of probation: if those

who plead guilty block a sidewalk or entrance within 120 days and are arrested, they would be hit with an automatic misdemeanor. This length of time, by no coincidence, extends exactly through the coming electoral campaign.

A significant portion of the people offered infractions have refused to plead guilty — as a form of solidarity with those the court has singled out for harsher punishment, and because they are seeking to make the courts an avenue of protest against the clampdown. The trials for the first group of these resisters started on August 20, and it involved the people arrested on the first day of the Convention at the first of the Democratic War Chest Tours.

All of these defendants were part of 80 people initially arrested on felony conspiracy charges while standing on a sidewalk or at a die-in during the first Democratic War Chest Tour. The "felony conspiracy" charges were an important part of the outrageous new tactics developed by the police and political police for dealing with mass protests during the Democratic Convention. The specific charge was "conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor, blocking the sidewalk or entranceway," and the police openly stated that its aim was to keep all the people in jail without bail for three days, or until the Convention was over. This was nothing less than preventive detention aimed at stopping the War Chest Tour before it even got started. This larger aim was further revealed by the "evidence" for the "conspiracy" advanced by the police: anarchist flags on dowels, a War Chest Tour map targeting the location of corporations aiding in war production and other criminal activities, RCYB "propaganda stickers" and a "verbal statement by RCYB demonstrators about plant disorder" — this crime was nothing other than the politics of the demonstrators. Among those who have been infuriated by this fact are many civil

libertarians. The use of this charge is a telling indication of what the authorities plan on doing during political crises in the future.

Roughly thirty people have refused to plead guilty to charges that the court has leveled as punishment for the War Chest Tour. Their resistance has brought down a clampdown from the courts, which have refused to allow any of the cases to be joined together — each defendant has his or her own trial. Because the charges are drawn as "infractions," there is no jury. Along with that, each of the defendants facing trial had to appear in court every day, whether or not he or she will be on trial. A missed appearance draws an arrest warrant. It has amounted to political punishment before the trial.

On August 31, the first verdict was announced: guilty on a charge stemming from the die-in, with a penalty of five hundred dollars (one hundred dollars being credited for time served). After some legal challenges from the defendants, charges were dropped on those arrested for blocking the sidewalk; those charged for the die-in will still face trial. (Again, these are only the first group of eighty out of several hundred charged during the upsurge, including some on charges stemming from the final night of street confrontations.)

As for the conduct of the trial, the judge has repeatedly acted as prosecutor, questioning one defendant at length on her intent to disrupt, and probing for evidence. Any defense probing into a police conspiracy to attack demonstrators has been ruled out — and this in regard to an event in which security preparations were discussed in the press for months beforehand, with the FBI, CIA, and Secret Service playing their role, and police and other authorities meeting to figure out how to stifle real protest, particularly the War Chest Tour. The little problem posed by this widely advertised police conspiracy was dispos-

ed of by a little sleight-of-hand: the cop in charge of the arrest of the first War Chest Tour is conveniently "on vacation," and his underlings just don't know a thing about any advance planning for arrests. And of course the trials can't be postponed until "the vacation" ends.

Another critical part of the attempted suppression of Democratic Convention protests was the use of undercover "quick arrest teams," tied into a network of informants. Some of those being tried were arrested by these teams when "construction workers" across the street from the arrest dropped down from steel girders to arrest people in the streets.

One antinuke activist described the quick-arrests this way: "When the arrest occurred, they didn't make any kind of announcement about, 'I'm a police officer, you're under arrest' or this or that. Undercover, no badges visible, they just grabbed people and dragged them off to the police van. So what's happening is their starting to act more like a secret police force, un-uniformed people who drag people off without saying anything, more like that. That's a very important development which people should not miss. Because they continued that, with variations, they continued through the week. Arresting people without saying anything, without making any announcements, no badges shown, dragging people off."

The bourgeoisie is clearly quite pleased with "war fever summer," starting with the Democratic Convention and then on to the Olympics and the Republican Convention. The fact that masses, especially youth, delivered quite a different verdict is a real problem now, and even more for the future. The whole suffocating farce of a trial in San Francisco has been set up to try and give the system a last word on Convention protests, and to do it at minimum political risk. □

Philippines:

The Simmering Crisis



NPA guerrillas in Mindinao.



Hundreds of thousands rally against Marcos on August 21.



Plainclothes police on patrol.

Exactly one year since Benigno Aquino, a leading Philippine bourgeois opposition figure, was assassinated as he stepped off a plane at Manila International Airport, half a million to a million people from all levels of society in the Manila area marched and rallied on August 21st. There was no major confrontation with the armed forces of the government, a marked contrast to the smaller anti-Marcos demonstrations in the preceding weeks which had been attacked by police using tear gas, truncheons and water cannon. Several dozen students were reported missing after one demonstration outside the presidential palace.

Well aware that there would be massive numbers of people out on the streets on August 21 and fearful of the masses getting out of control, the Marcos regime and the "responsible" opposition leaders apparently reached an agreement to avoid confrontation. A few days before the demonstration, the Philippine Supreme Court reversed an earlier government ban on demonstrations marking the assassination. The court said that it gave the approval based on assurances by leading opposition figures that the demonstration would be peaceful. Describing Aquino as a "leader who decided to go back to his country to attain peace," the court asked the demonstrators not to resort to "placards of hate and acts inimical to public peace" which would desecrate his memory. (If the court's borrowing of Aquino's words is highly hypocritical, considering that the trail of Aquino's blood leads right to the doorstep of the regime itself, it is also to the point about Aquino's comprador bourgeois outlook and political line.)

On August 21 itself, the military-police forces stayed largely out of sight except for those amassed around the presidential palace. It was clear, however, that significant sections of the people that took to the streets did not feel bound by the limits set up by the regime and bourgeois opposition. Banners and signs expressing demands to end the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and other slogans described by one U.S. reporter as "brilliantly anti-American" could be seen throughout the huge crowds. Many people, especially the youth, came prepared with bandanas and goggles in case of tear-gas attacks by the police. According to one report, a group of several hundred youth carried the pro-

tests right up to the presidential palace in the face of the government troops.

Repression and Elections

In efforts to defuse the simmering political crisis in the Philippines, the U.S. imperialists and the Marcos puppet regime have been pursuing a two-pronged tactic of intensifying the general reign of repression and terror against the masses, while at the same time providing some opening to the bourgeois opposition. In June, Marcos unleashed 760 armed "secret marshals" on the streets of Manila in the name of combating crime. These plainclothes goons gunned down at least 45 "suspected criminals," and although they were disbanded a month later, Marcos had delivered the brutal message. In July, the police attacked a picket line at a Manila factory, murdering at least seven workers and injuring many others. The government also released a list of organizations which, it claims, are infiltrated by "communist assassins." According to the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, "The list includes virtually every student, labor, business and church association that has organized protests against

the Marcos regime."

The U.S., meanwhile, was making an offer to the bourgeois opposition forces that was hard to refuse. A section of the opposition forces had opted to join in the boycott of the May 14 electoral farce for seats in the National Assembly. The boycott had been promoted by the National Democratic Front.*

U.S. State Department and embassy officials made the rounds of various opposition figures, including Aquino's

* The NDF is led by the Communist Party of the Philippines. The CPP was formed in 1968 in opposition to Soviet and Filipino revisionism. In December 1976 the Chinese revisionists who had seized power two months earlier, published a statement from the CPP supporting Hua Guofeng. The statement has not been retracted. To our knowledge, the CPP still upholds Mao Tsetung and the Cultural Revolution.



Effigy of Uncle Sam goes up in flames outside the U.S. embassy.

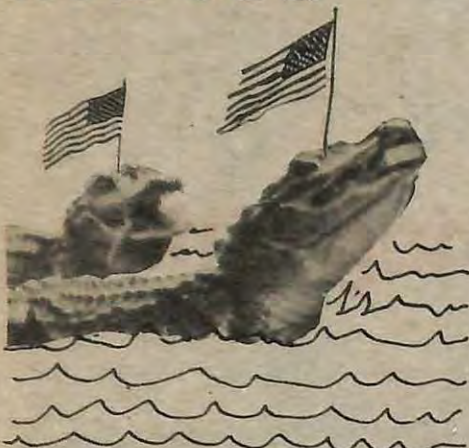
widow; according to various reports, their message was that Washington was not going to abandon Marcos at this point, that the boycott should be rejected, and that the opposition parties would be guaranteed about 30% of the seats in the Assembly if they participated. The majority of the bourgeois opposition did participate in the elections, and (surprise!) they won about one-third of the seats — another example of the uncanny ability of the U.S. bourgeoisie to correctly prognosticate the outcome of elections.

Glaring Trouble

The U.S. proclaimed that what transpired was a beginning of a "return

Continued on page 10

Red Sea



Continued from page 1

nuclear) through which each is preparing to "face down" the other.

U.S. Pre-positioning

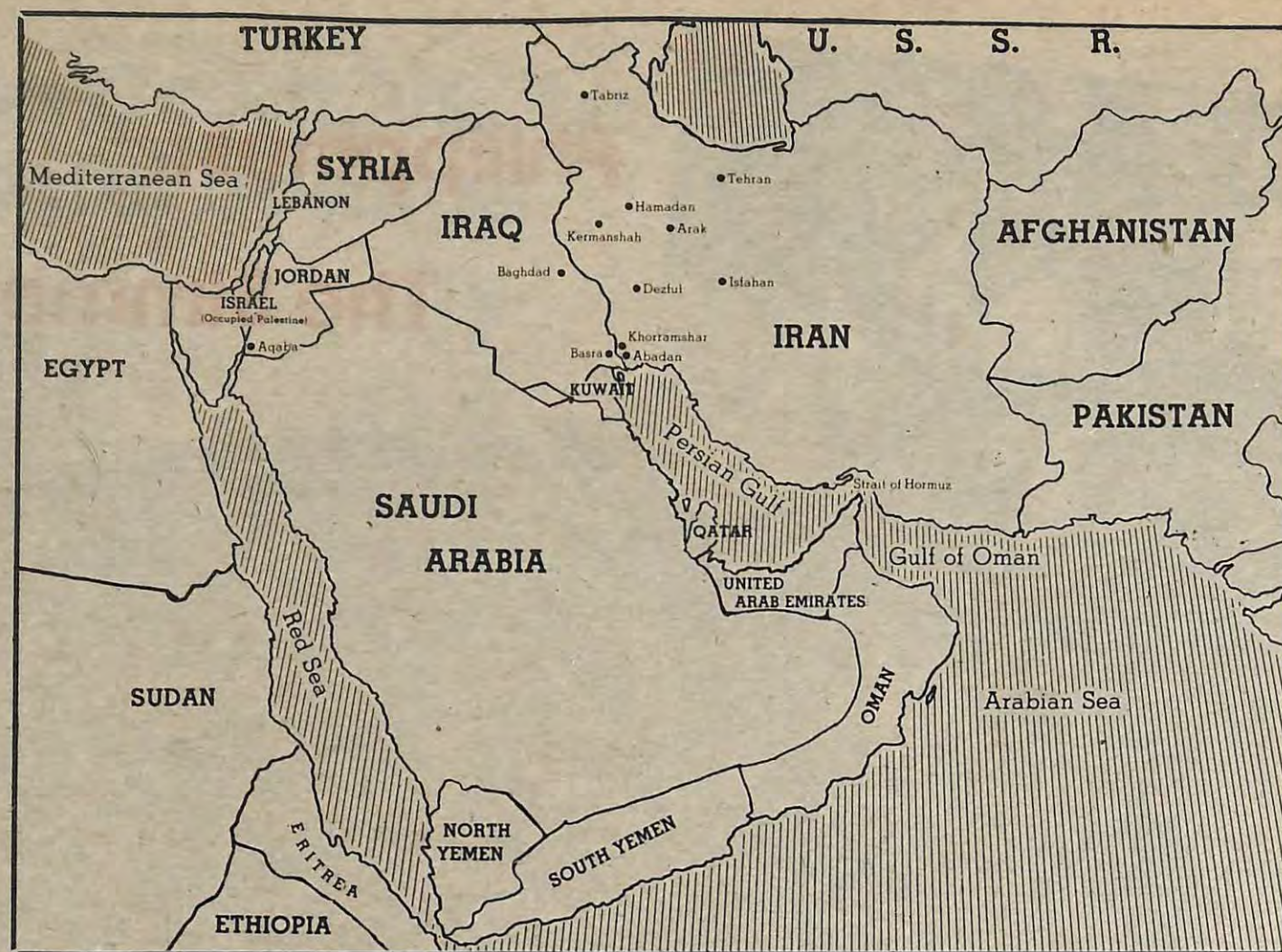
It is revealing, for example, that the U.S. operation is being carried out under the auspices of the Central Command, America's command structure for the rapid deployment force. In fact, the introduction of the seven U.S. minesweeping helicopters into the Red Sea became — in the view of American war-planners — a ballyhooed "test" of America's rapid deployment capabilities. Despite the fact that the U.S. was abundantly active on the scene prior to the dispatch of the helicopters, despite the fact that British and French minesweeping ships were already stationed in the area, a hue and cry has been raised over the 10-day delay in "reaction time" from when the minesweeping unit was first air-lifted from Norfolk, Va. to when it arrived, aboard the amphibious assault ship *Shreveport*, in the Gulf of Suez. Consider the remarks of a Senate defense aide, carried in the August 12th *New York Times*. "Warfare is characterized by the ability to adapt rapidly," he said, referring to the 10-day lag. "We've got a serious problem."

The point of these protestations — rather overwrought in view of the fairly deliberate pace the U.S. has adopted in reaction to this "crisis" — seems clear enough, as the problem of "reaction time" has been mainly tied to U.S. shortcomings in pre-positioning sufficient troops and matériel in the area. Steamrolling over what remains of "Egyptian sensitivity to receiving foreign troops" (as the *Times* characterized the problem) is an obvious objective, as is upgrading the airfield and port facilities of Egypt's Ras Banas military base (for all intents and purposes, already part of the Central Command's basing network). In the prediction of one Senate staff member, the minesweeping operation will itself help accelerate this process, as the continued operation of the helicopters aboard the *Shreveport* will soon prove untenable, making their operation from a land base an imminent necessity. For its part the Egyptian government has declared, through the August 20th declarations of its foreign minister, that the search for mines is an "open-ended" one, and that the continued Western naval forces are welcome to stay in the Gulf of Suez "as long as there is a job for them to perform."

The Red Sea operation has also, of course, witnessed the rebirth of the Multi-National Force, last seen leaving Lebanon under less than glorious circumstances. As was the case in Lebanon, the multinational character of the force — involving as it does the U.S., British, French and Italian navies carrying out a division of labor amongst themselves in various parts of the Red Sea — serves several purposes. It provides a thin veneer of political cover to what is, after all, essentially a U.S. undertaking, even as it amplifies the military resources brought to bear on the situation. More, it signals that however outmaneuvered the multinational force became in Lebanon, the underlying premise — that an increasing show of allied military strength be made in the Middle East — is too good, and necessary, an idea to be held down for long.

Garbage

As of this writing, no mines have yet been found; U.S. scuba divers are complaining that their search has been hampered by the "incredible amount of garbage" at the sea's bottom. The lack of



any hard evidence concerning the series of explosions affecting Red Sea shipping since July has not, however, prevented an incredible amount of garbage from being actively put forward by government "sources" and the media.

It has not even been established that mines are indeed responsible for the explosions. It is interesting that initial explanations in early August, from the Egyptian Suez Canal authorities, claimed that the explosions could have been caused by explosive devices used in oil exploration that had scattered adrift in the area. This was never conveyed in the U.S. press. In contrast, subsequent claims made by Egyptian Defense Ministry officials, that "two countries" (Iran and Libya) were under major suspicion, and that a Libyan ship was observed as "behaving strangely" in the area a few weeks ago, have been given the widest circulation. Of course, Egyptian canal authorities may well have had their own reasons for seeking to defuse the issue, given the dire dependence of Egypt on the Suez Canal for revenues. But the long-standing and demonstrated tendency of the Egyptian state to invoke the "Libyan threat" (for domestic consumption and, more strategically, in keeping with U.S. designs on the Khadafy regime) is no less transparent. No matter — the political imperatives of the U.S. demanded that the "fact" of a belligerent act in the Red Sea be established, and on this basis an active speculation be fueled as to the likely culprits.

Consider the caliber of this speculation: an Associated Press story released August 5 quoted London's *Financial Times* as quoting, in turn, "Western officials in Cairo," who said the explosions "may be the work of a group backed by Iran." The report then quoted an unnamed "Western diplomat" (that ubiquitous and all-purpose species), who averred that "the most obvious conclusion (is) that the mines are connected with the war between Iran and Iraq." A front-page headline in the *Christian Science Monitor* (August 7) showed again how a dearth of actual information should never stand in the way of the "news." Entitled "Red Sea Blasts: Gulf War Spin-off?", the article primarily establishes the authority of its assertions by stating that "the most widely heard speculation so far is that pro-Iranian militants may have mined areas of the Red Sea..." Thus a house of mirrors is erected, reports circulating about reports circulating — the process providing sufficient grist to help the story attain a life of its own.

For when it comes to evidence linking Iran and/or Libya to the explosions, the various diplomats and government officials providing the press with "authoritative" judgements admit to having none. The case, such as it has been made, is entirely circumstantial, and rests on the premise that one or another of these states would have an interest in min-

ing the Red Sea. On the basis of this argument, and in light of what has happened since the alleged mining took place, it can be safely said that the U.S. should be considered foremost among the suspects. After all, as the *Christian Science Monitor* rather unabashedly put it on August 15: "If any Middle East crisis can be said to be a 'good' one, the apparent mining of the Red Sea is so far turning out just that way for the West."

It can be seen from the nature of the explosions themselves that, if mines are involved, they are clearly low in explosive power. The only serious explosion reported so far, that of the Liberian-registered *Oceanic Energy*, has since been found to have been caused by an onboard accident. No other ship has been seriously damaged, and Lloyd's of London has yet to raise insurance rates for ships going through these waters.

Nor do the minings threaten a clearly defined target. At the most they pose a nuisance, and a generalized nuisance at that. All this may be ascribed to the relative desperation and enfeebled resources of those "foreign terrorists" who planted them. Or all of this may be the product of imperialist design — to effect no real damage while at the same time calling forth the intercession of the United States and Western powers — under circumstances that would cast such military intervention in relatively benign and palatable terms.

The "Islamic extremist" angle was given a significant second wind on August 5 after an anonymous phone call was received in London. The caller, claiming to represent the forces of "Islamic Jihad," said that the group had planted some 190 mines in the Red Sea. Such a call in itself proves nothing, of course, and the timing actually undermines the "Islamic terrorist" proposition further. Certainly, any conceivable Islamic forces would be well aware that ships holding hundreds of thousands of Muslims were soon to sail through the Red Sea en route to Mecca and Medina, in keeping with the annual Haj (religious pilgrimage). For such forces to have undertaken such a move, and then taken public credit for it, would be a sure-fire recipe for isolation and rejection, hardly a desirable political objective. No, the desirable objectives around the Red Sea these days are those aimed for by the U.S., whose operatives know how to use London telephones as well as anybody, and whose statesmen are world champions at erecting flimsy covers for military moves. (Flimsier yet has been the actual suggestion that the minesweepers are there to "insure the safe passage" of thousands of Muslims.)

How all this specifically connects to events inside Iran is not clear. On August 7th, Tehran Radio made a blustery announcement hailing the minings. The broadcast praised the "Islamic Jihad" group and claimed that "all the arrogant

powers are helpless, unable to save dozens of ships facing destruction in the Gulf of Suez and Red Sea every day." Later in the day, however, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hussein Mousavi was taking pains to publicly emphasize that "Iran has not been involved in this issue in any way" and that, concerning "Islamic Jihad," "It's nature is unknown to the Iranian government." By August 8th, the Iranian Foreign Ministry was accusing the U.S. and Israel of having placed the mines, as part of a "new conspiracy" to try discrediting the Islamic Republic.

The erraticism displayed in these responses adds further to the picture of growing internal discord within Iran, disputes on a host of matters — the economy, the prosecution of the Iran-Iraq war, relations with the imperialist powers — which involve sections of the top leadership and governmental bureaucracy. Of course, this discord has been actively fueled by the intrigue and maneuvering of both imperialist blocs, each of which are angling for position inside Iran, and each of whose moves are conditioned by those of the other. So it is very likely that in this case the Iranian Foreign Ministry, whatever its particular motivation, has a point.

The U.S. now rails about the "terrorist threat" posed to the civilized world by the alleged mining of the Red Sea. Yet only a few short months ago, the U.S. boldly defended its own CIA-directed mining of Nicaraguan harbors as a point of democratic virtue, which shows, among other things, that U.S. operatives can also lay mines as well as anybody. But whatever the specific events, and actors, behind the "minings," the U.S. has aggressively seized upon the Red Sea situation to ratchet up its naval authority and bolster its military posture in the area. The Soviets, clearly having caught on to the game being played here, are demonstrating that two can play. Events there, in close proximity to the Persian Gulf — where the Iran-Iraq war and the situation within Iran itself are still very much up for grabs — have become an active function in the U.S.-Soviet drive towards a third world war. □

Death Squad

Continued from page 5

here. Thus, logic suggests a much more coherent explanation for the massacre in San Ysidro than that offered by the authorities and media: that James Huberty was a neo-Nazi, who police allowed to carry out a calculated, racist pogrom for over an hour.

No sooner had the pogrom been carried out than did the authorities and media begin to erect their tortured and dishonest account of the killings — their cover story. On the day after the massacre San Diego mayor Roger Hedgecock announced that the San Ysidro murders were "an isolated, however barbaric, act. It had nothing to do with terrorism, or the Olympics or anything like that." Oh, really?! When a racist storms into a restaurant and begins to systematically slaughter people of an oppressed nationality this is not "terrorism"? And this occurred just days before the Olympic Torch arrived in San Diego when a chauvinist frenzy was being cranked up throughout Southern California — yet we are supposed to believe that this climate of rampant jingoism has not a thing to do with Huberty's murderous rampage. (It also bears remarking that this frenzy was heavily fueled by the furor around the "threat of terrorists" to Olympic security, said to be posed by leftists and immigrants, etc. Yet revealingly, when terrorism did occur it came from a right-winger and fully in line with the spirit of the Olympics. It was this ugly spirit which prompted one Los Angeles artist to create a mural inscribed: "LAPD Official Death Squad of the Olympics." Similarly, Huberty could be nominated the Olympics' one-man Unofficial Death Squad.

The massacre was dutifully portrayed in the media as "an isolated act." As we indicated, initial press reports had quoted

Huberty's neighbors as saying he hated Mexicans. But shortly after the massacre San Diego police chief Kolender announced that — in the words of a UPI dispatch — "Apparently there was no motive of racial antagonism for the massacre." And, sure enough, references to Huberty's hatred of Mexicans promptly vanished from the media. The *Los Angeles Times* printed the following comments at the end of its story on July 20:

"Because at least five of Wednesday's victims were Mexican citizens, the tragedy has attracted considerable attention from the Baja media. One Mexican reporter asked (Police Chief) Kolender if there was evidence that Huberty disliked Latinos. 'He didn't like anybody,' Kolender responded." Here we have the chief of police himself, only one day after the massacre, arrogantly dismissing any possibility that James Huberty might be a racist.

Soon, James Huberty, the reactionary fanatic, had been transformed into poor James Huberty, the despondent unemployed worker, as the media eagerly went on a hunt for "experts" like the L.A. police psychiatrist who explained how mass murderers often have a "feeling of rejection and inadequacy." We're supposed to be understanding, you see, of the "human tragedy" involved in the making of racist mass murders. Particularly outrageous was the story of Huberty's supposed unemployment triggering these killings. Huberty *had* lost a job... as a welder in Ohio *two years earlier*. And though the press has sought to make much over Huberty's supposed feelings of desperation over the layoff, the Hubertys seemed to be getting plenty of money from somewhere. In fact, according to a report in the *New York Times*, Huberty had only gotten his last job, as a security guard, in order to show an official source of income when renting their San Ysidro apartment. Reported the *Times*: "The neighbor said Mrs. Huberty

had told her that the family had owned an apartment elsewhere, had 'investments,' had lived in Mexico, and had told her, 'I don't know why you have to have a job to prove you have income.'"

Overall, the impact of the media coverage has been twofold: it has quashed any call for an investigation of Huberty's political connections and of police complicity in the affair, and by drenching Huberty with tender "understanding" for his supposed despair at unemployment, they *legitimize* his actions! America has been most willing to "understand" the most vicious terror against oppressed nationalities — such compassion for the "unemployed" who commit pogroms was evident in the murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit and recently in media treatment of the actions of racists in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Any way you look at it, the media coverage was — at least — a slap in the face to be added to the blood which ran in San Ysidro.

Meanwhile, in San Ysidro itself, another and more direct slap was added by reactionaries. This came in the form of a series of threats and hate mail directed against those in San Ysidro who have organized to have a memorial park built on the site of the murders. (The San Diego police have decided that none of these threats merit any investigation on their part.) One of these hate letters reads as follows:

"I think Mr. Huberty should have his statue where McDonald's is standing. He did us Anglos a favor getting rid of those welfare scums. To me he is a hero, killing those filthy, stinking Mexicans.

"Let's start a fund for his wife and children.

"Let's have more Mexicans hitting the dirt."

Here we have a truly fitting example of the putrid essence of the American spirit, a spirit which inspired James Huberty to grotesquely calculated mass murder.

But as to the suggestion that a fund be

established for Huberty's wife and daughters, the needs of the Huberty family have already been seen to by no one less than McDonald's heir Joan Kroc herself. Shortly after the massacre, a fund for the "victims of the massacre" had been established with money provided by the McDonald's Corporation and from Kroc herself. Kroc arrived personally in a Rolls Royce to deliver one of the first grants from the fund to Etna Huberty. Besides delivering a check for \$1000, Kroc came "to comfort Huberty's widow and young daughters," said the *San Diego Union*.

Little wonder that Kroc's actions, ignoring the families of the victims while rushing one of the first checks from this fund to the wife of the racist mass murderer, was taken as a deliberate affront to the victims of the family — a supportive position on the pogrom if there ever was one! This would have been insulting enough even if Etna Huberty detested her husband's action, but this is, in point of fact, hardly the case. Since the massacre Etna Huberty has spent her time defending her husband — including feeding the *San Diego Union* ridiculous lies, such as that while her husband might be a Nazi he was not a racist(!), and saying in a letter to a TV station that "he was very fond of children" when he was known throughout his neighborhood for his hatred of children.

What marks this ghastly affair from beginning to end is how much, on the one hand, is being covered up, while, on the other, how very clear and vicious a message is being delivered to those who were the target of the racist terror of the massacre itself. And what is abundantly clear for all that have eyes to see, is that there is much more behind the murderous fusillade unleashed in the San Ysidro McDonald's than the workings of one sick mind. This disease reached epidemic proportions, long ago. □

Contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls



The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and need the *Revolutionary Worker* and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other Party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism Mao Tsetung Thought behind the prison walls, the *Revolutionary Worker* has established a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Brothers:

8/13/84

First of all I'd like to thank you for sending me the RCP book. It is helping me out a lot and from it I am learning what's needed to enter the party. I am seeing, feeling and thinking very much like all the brothers and sisters that make up the RCP. I lack much understanding and knowledge to be able to speak and defend the party's cause when necessary. But I hope that little by little and with your help to learn what I need to expound and defend the ideas of the party verbally whenever it's necessary.

I say verbally because from where I am today it's the only way I can do it. And if at some future date when I am free it is necessary to fight with arms for our ideals, I also will be ready to do it. In fact it doesn't matter much to lose one's life if you struggle for a just cause.

The articles of the RCP constitution are very interesting and important. Article three interests me much but in order to put it into practice I need you to send me more material to prepare myself, especially in respect to criticism of revisionism. You know that an ignorant person doesn't serve for much when it comes to expressing or expounding points of view. Thus I need more material to study and learn Marxism-Leninism. Having a real understanding of these principles I am going to fight for the ideals of the RCP.

Once again I thank you deeply from my heart for sending me this book and I will be very glad every time you take a bit of your time to think of me and send more material which you consider could be useful to me.

With much respect:
"Mexico"

Comrades:

I am writing to subscribe to Revolution, organ of the Central Committee of the RCP; Red Flag, national magazine of the RCP; and, of course, a copy of the Declaration of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. And please send me a copy of *America in Decline* in paperback.

Perhaps I should point out that I am, and have been for some time, a proud, admiring and avid reader of the *Revolutionary Worker* and literature via the uniquely Marxist-Leninist works and literature fund. Prisoners' Revolutionary Literature Fund. Consequently, I would like to ask that you send me the above mentioned titles through the same fund and I will also circulate them.

Greetings to all the comrades,
Huntsville

Philippines

Continued from page 7
to democracy" in the Philippines. But we can dismiss this silly rhetoric that nobody involved in this imperialist maneuvering believes for a moment. Instead, William Sullivan, former U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, puts some perspective to what the U.S. ruling class as a whole is actually grappling with in the Philippines: "We have an enormous responsibility to prevent a real civil war from breaking out. When we realize there is almost inevitably going to be a change, we should try to work towards a moderate change." It's quite fitting that Sullivan, who, after his stint in Manila went on to become the ambassador to Iran as the Shah was being overthrown, has become one of the voices of authority on the Philippines often quoted in the bourgeois press, for the U.S. imperialists are desperately maneuvering to prevent an Asian Iran à la 1979. What they are faced with are sharpening rifts within the domestic ruling classes, various strata of society in motion, an economy strained to its limits and rotting at the foundations, a growing armed insurgency in the countryside — and all of this in a strategically indispensable bastion of U.S. imperialism and in a world situation which is even sharper and closer to all-out interimperialist war since the Iran debacle. The Philippines is a glaring trouble spot and a potentially explosive link in the empire.

The U.S. imperialists cannot resolve their troubles in the Philippines apart from a redivision of the entire globe. But they cannot either afford real destabilization of their neocolony — above all, they need to insure the continued viability of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, which are critical to U.S. warfighting capabilities in the Pacific Rim and the Indian Ocean.

Nothing indicates these worries of the U.S. imperialists more than the noticeably increasing alarm expressed in the U.S. press and by the U.S. government and the military about the growth of the political influence and material strength of the CPP and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA). According to the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, two recent reports warn of the NPA: one written by the commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Command after a trip there in June, and a second put together around the same time by the U.S. embassy in Manila and the CIA. The latest U.S. estimates put the number of NPA guerrillas at 12,000 to 15,000 and the villages under NPA influence or control at 17% of the nationwide total. This is a significant jump from estimates made just two years earlier. There are also indications that the National Democratic Front has made some gains in its influence in the urban areas in the recent period. Although major offensives on the center of power by the NPA are not posed as an immediate threat, what worries the U.S. is that, given the sharpening situation overall and even worse — from the U.S. imperialist point of view — real destabilization and social upheaval, the CPP could make dramatic leaps in its strength and influence in a short period.

In recent months, the Marcos regime has unleashed two major offensives against the NPA in Mindanao, the southernmost island, and in northern Luzon. In the latter operation, planes and helicopters bombed and strafed suspected NPA strongholds, and Marcos

himself flew to the scene, dressed in fatigues and carrying a .45 at his side.

While the threat posed by the armed insurgency is a real question for the U.S., the U.S. has an additional motive in putting the spotlight on the NPA: to shift the fire of public opinion away from Marcos and prepare ground for pumping in more aid to their puppet regime. In an article in the Op-Ed pages of the *New York Times*, Stephen Solarz, the Democratic chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, writes that "the attention focused on the vast capital flight in foreign debt, the May parliamentary elections and the investigation of the Aquino assassination has obscured a development that may have far more significant long-term consequences for that country and for America's position in Asia: the rapidly expanding strength of the communist-dominated NPA."

Solarz, who has been built up as a staunch critic of Marcos and friend in Washington of the "democratic opposition," has called in the past for using the aid money earmarked for Manila to pressure Marcos to make "reforms." But he now argues against tampering with this money, since that could backfire and "jeopardize our access to the bases." Instead, he proposes further aid to Marcos, in the form of a "large-scale economic assistance program." Although Solarz would still make this additional aid contingent on "reforms" by Marcos, the implication is that he's not calling for Marcos' resignation, as he had done before. Moreover, even as Solarz has been making noises about "pressuring" Marcos, the U.S. recently has shipped in almost a billion dollars to the Philippines through various credits and loans, without even a peep coming from the liberal Democratic "critics" of the regime. (This should give some pause to those who believe that it is "Reagan's rightist policies" which are propping up the puppet regime. Democrats or Republicans, the U.S. imperialists are united on the need to do whatever necessary to protect the vital U.S. interests in the Philippines and elsewhere around the globe.)

Debts and Destabilization

In comparing the period immediately after Aquino's assassination to last week's demonstration, one of the opposition politicians newly elected to the Assembly remarked: "The prevailing mood of the people during that time was one of rage. Now the feeling is one of hope that we can pursue a democratic dialogue through our efforts in the Parliament." Most basically, this politician was expressing the "hope" — and illusions — of large and important urban middle classes — government and office workers, merchants, professionals, managerial personnel, etc. No doubt the "surprisingly strong" showing of the opposition parties in the May elections, along with the stepped-up terror and repression, had had the effect of cooling things down among these classes, if only to a certain extent. Along with serious splits in the ruling classes, the open disaffection, and even militant battles, of large sections of these middle classes which had previously supported the regime, was one of the distinctive marks of serious crisis in the aftermath of the Aquino killing.

However, while the Aquino assassination had a precipitating effect in bringing the dissatisfaction of the middle strata to the surface, such sentiments were, and continue to be, fueled by underlying developments determined by the intensi-



The World As They See It

SIGN OF THE TIMES...

In the accompanying picture, you see the latest crop of hand-embroidered satin jackets worn by American GIs doing their time on West German bases. Ten years ago, during the days of detente and Helsinki the maps on GI backs only showed West Germany, the country in which they were stationed. This new version has a different cast... you'll notice that the "Germany" being portrayed not only includes both West and East Germany, but also those long fingers on the right that are now in Poland and which haven't been part of any Germany since the days of the Third Reich. Also notice that the American flag is firmly planted in the "German" soil which has been part of Poland for forty years. RW readers in West Germany report that one version of this new jacket has appeared with the words "Operation Reforger" stitched across the map of a reunited Third Reich, giving the name chosen for NATO war maneuvers a whole new meaning. Since we assume it was not the idea of any rank-and-file GIs to stitch on the "old Germany" instead of a map of one or even both of the actually existing German states, someone up high made a conscious decision to "reject the Yalta division of Europe" and train their soldiers to look at both East Germany and Poland in a certain way — through the portholes of their tanks.

fying crisis of the imperialist order. As an August 17 *New York Times* editorial pointed out: "What once persuaded many Filipinos to support or tolerate this high-handed regime were the economic benefits it brought, especially to the middle classes. But now the country is broke, a fourth of its work force is jobless. There is no end in sight for the steepest economic decline since the Japanese invasion of 1941. Unable to meet payments on \$25 million in foreign debts, the government is pleading for a \$650 million standby loan from the International Monetary Fund." There have been several devaluations of the Philippine peso just in the past year, and the inflation rate is running at 50%. Dozens of banks have folded, and the largest savings bank in the country was forced to temporarily close in June due to a run on its deposits, reopening only after being propped up by over \$200 million in emergency government loans.

The typical analysis in the bourgeois press places the blame for this economic mess on Marcos himself and the so-called "crony capitalism" — a system of favoritism for families and close friends of Marcos and his wife. It should be remembered, however, that when Marcos effected a forceful centralization of political and military power by declaring martial law in 1972 to deal with rising discontent among the masses and infighting within the local ruling classes, the move was hailed and supported by the U.S. The American Chamber of Commerce, for example, sent a telegram to

Marcos: "(we wish) you every success in your endeavor to restore peace and order, business confidence, economic growth, and well-being of the Filipino people and nation. We assure you of our confidence and cooperation in achieving these objectives." But with the deteriorating situation in the Philippines, the authoritarian power wielded by Marcos, which had once been an advantage for the U.S. imperialists, has now become a sticky political liability.

Obviously the Philippines is not the only "junkie economy" in the world surviving only on steadily greater injections of loan capital. Such dependent and disarticulated Third World economies are the inevitable result of the international imperialist division of labor. The problem of devising a "rescheduling" scheme for the huge foreign debt (the imperialists know that the question here is not to wipe out the debt or even reduce it significantly, but to devise stop-gap measures to prevent things from completely falling apart) is being taken up by the 12-bank advisory committee for the Philippines, which is based in New York — a graphic example of a point made in *America in Decline*: "The centers of accumulation are situated in the imperialist countries; from here originates the essential 'heartbeat' of accumulation... In contrast, the economic structure of the oppressed nations is shaped mainly by forces external to them... They answer to another's 'heartbeat.'"

Since last fall, there have been four

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Declaration of the
Revolutionary
Internationalist
Movement

Released In
22 Languages
Worldwide On
May 1st, 1984

Adopted by the delegates and
observers at the Second International
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and Organisations which formed the
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Successful New York Film Showing

A very interesting event was held recently in New York City. On July 26 approximately 350 people attended a film showing of Emile de Antonio's 1968 feature-length documentary about the Vietnam War, *In the Year of the Pig*. After the film, shown as part of the effort to build support for the worldwide fund drive called for by the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, most stayed for a question and discussion period with a panel made up of de Antonio; Carl Dix, spokesperson for the RCP, USA; a young woman who participated in the World Without Imperialism Contingent that went to West Germany last fall; and a Vietnam vet who was active in organizing anti-Vietnam War activities, including the Winter Soldier hearings and the medal-throwing protest at the Capitol.

It is significant that a broad audience was drawn to a film that is a stark exposure of U.S. imperialism's role in Vietnam (under both Republican and Democratic administrations, including "peace candidate" Johnson and Mondale-mentor Humphrey), especially at a time when the bourgeoisie is expending such efforts to reverse correct verdicts on that war as part of their preparation for the bigger battle ahead — world war

— and in the period of both the Democratic Convention and Olympic Games with attendant attempts to drown any rebellious stirrings or questioning masses in a sea of stars and stripes.

Featured at the Cannes Film Festival and nominated for an Academy Award in the U.S., *In the Year of the Pig* received critical praise when it was released (though begrudging from many quarters), but was subject to intense harassment. On one day the three theaters in Paris where it was playing simultaneously were all stink-bombed. The film was effectively prevented from being commercially distributed in the U.S. The Los Angeles theater where it had opened was broken into and someone painted a hammer and sickle and the word "traitor" on the screen with a tar brush. This destroyed the screen and effectively scared off other commercial theaters from showing it.

In addition, to the present day no U.S. TV station, including PBS, has seen fit to air this documentary, even though de Antonio has offered it to them free of charge. Of the recent PBS 13-part series on Vietnam, de Antonio said, "It flattens out the whole war so there is no right or wrong, no winners or losers." Something

In the Year of the Pig definitely does not do. "I wanted to make an intellectual weapon to be used against our war in Vietnam," de Antonio said of his own film.

The diverse audience was made up of people from different social movements and strata, of different nationalities. People from different cultural arenas, including members of a couple of bands from the East Village, joined Vietnam vets, professionals and a number of proletarians. Some had been active in the '60s and some were younger, newer forces, brought together because of the film's reputation, its focus on Vietnam, and a desire to grapple with the lessons of that war and how it relates to the present situation. Questions ranged from particular aspects of that period — such as the role anti-Vietnam War protests played — and how the film was made, to the function of government in society; the role of women and the relation between "male thinking" (as one questioner put it) and class society; what is the situation in Vietnam today; and what can people do to oppose the U.S. government now. There was also considerable interest shown at the Revolution Books table in the *Declaration of the Revolutionary In-*

ternationalist Movement and the display of literature from signatory parties and organizations.

The event was built for through announcements in several papers and radio stations, including a half-hour interview with de Antonio by talk-show host Gary Byrd on radio station WLJB in New York City which reaches a very large, mainly Black audience. De Antonio also appeared on an upstate New York cable TV show (the station then decided to show the film itself at a later date).

A young Black man expressed the sentiments of many when he stood up near the end of the discussion period after the showing and said: "To the filmmaker, I'm sure that — what you're going through — putting the film together — the powers-that-be surely didn't want you to do that. I'm glad that you didn't give up in what you were doing, in this creative effort. And also, bringing to us what you shared with us this evening, I appreciate that... to everybody who participated tonight I would like to thank you all."

From an RW correspondent

Philippines

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moratoriums on interest payments on the Philippine foreign debt. The proposed \$650 million standby loan from the IMF, a first step in the rescheduling of the debt, has been mired in negotiations for months — a reflection of the difficult choices that the imperialists must make between economic imperatives and political considerations. They must impose further austerity measures on the Philippine economy so that interest payments at least can be resumed; at the same time, they know full well that such steps will exacerbate the already tense political climate.

As they scramble to set up first-aid measures to keep the bottom from falling out on the economy, the U.S. imperialists are also feverishly maneuvering to keep the deepening cracks in the Filipino ruling classes from breaking out into open and violent forms, as with the Aquino murder. The above-mentioned *New York Times* editorial approvingly cites the advice given by the London *Economist* magazine: "President Marcos cannot afford to lose American support. The Americans should take a deep breath and recognize they most certainly can afford to lose President Marcos."

The Reagan administration, in fact, has avoided making any kind of substantial commentary on the Philippine political situation, not to speak of statements of unqualified support for Marcos, in the recent period while at the same time developing contacts with the bourgeois opposition. At the same time, as the house calls by the U.S. officials on opposition figures before the May elections revealed, the U.S. is making it clear that Marcos is still the main man in the Philippines. One of the preferred scenarios envisioned by the U.S. policy makers is a gradual phasing out of Marcos into retirement and an orderly transition to a less tainted but equally reliable puppet from among Marcos' circle or the bourgeois opposition.

But this is a dangerous tightrope that the U.S. is treading on. If Marcos should die suddenly, a not unlikely possibility considering his age and frail physical condition (not to mention his shaky political state of health), or should one faction figure that it is going to get short-changed in the post-Marcos power structure, an open antagonistic struggle among various ruling-class forces could result. Such a development, along with the disaffection of the middle classes, could make for an ominous situation indeed for the U.S.

Commission Report

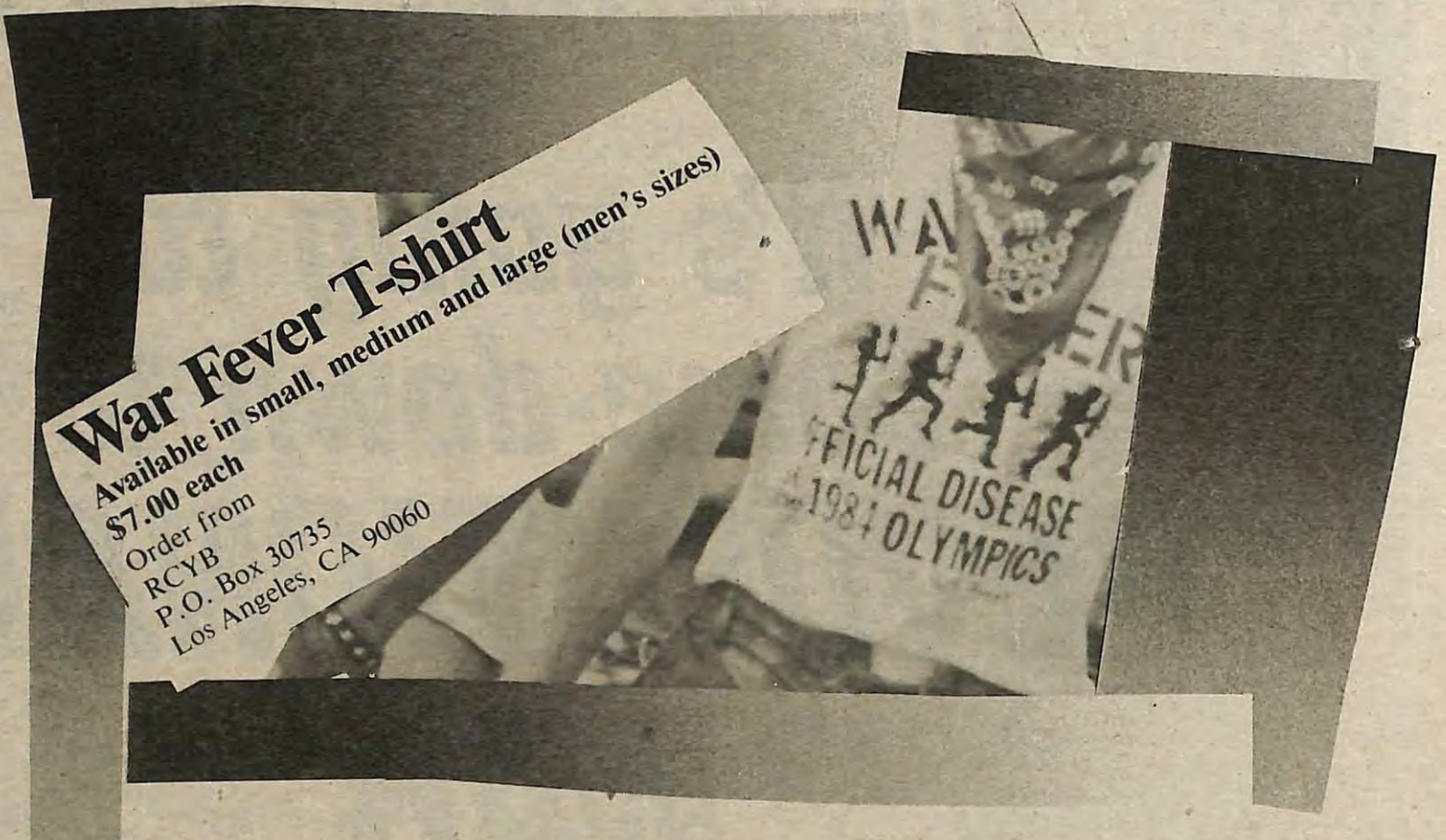
Coming up in the next several weeks is another possible flashpoint in the Philippine situation: the release of the official findings by the Marcos-appointed commission investigating Aquino's assassination. The Marcos regime has stuck to its own "theory" that Aquino was

assassinated by a gunman hired by the CPP. This "theory" has been exposed widely as being full of holes, and all evidence points to the soldiers who escorted Aquino off the plane as the ones who pulled the trigger; a trail leading to high figures in the military and quite possibly to Marcos himself.

Anyone with even a taint of disloyalty to Marcos has long-since been forced off this commission or has left voluntarily. Nevertheless, for the commission to unreservedly endorse the regime's line on the assassination would certainly create a dangerous backlash of public opinion. Some have suggested that a high military figure could be offered as a scapegoat and fingered as the culprit. But such a move, while taking some heat off Marcos, contains dangers of its own, perhaps even sparking off a coup by elements in the military.

Aquino's younger brother, who has emerged as a leading figure in the bourgeois opposition since the assassination, predicts a "greywash" — that is, a finding which takes the heat off Marcos without backing the regime's version in every detail. One example could be pointing the finger at the guards who took Aquino off the plane and some low-level military officials.

Just how "independent" the commission is was somewhat comically illustrated when Imelda Marcos, making an appearance to present her testimony, was serenaded by the commission members with choruses of "happy birthday." That such a body might very well be forced to make some concessions to the bourgeois opposition is another indication of the very tenuous position of the Marcos regime and the dangers it poses for the U.S. □



***We don't want our
fair share...***

***We want to tear
the whole system
down!***

***Elections are
the wrong arena.***

***It's going to
come down to
REVOLUTIONARY
WAR.***

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA